CLAIMS

Sub A1

1. An image pickup device equipped with a light emitter, comprising:

an image pickup unit for picking up an image and converting the picked-up image into an electric signal;

a memory for storing data electrically converted by the image pickup unit;

a determining section for making a determination of whether the electric signal converted by the image pickup unit has a proper brightness or not;

a controller for making the electric signal converted by the image pickup unit to be stored in the memory if a result of the determination of the determining section is "proper"; and

a light emitter for being controlled by the controller to emit light in timing with an image pickup timing of the image pickup device.

2. An image pickup device according to claim 1, wherein

when a result of the determination of the determining section is "not proper", the controller obtains a light quantity of the light emitter which is assumed to be "proper" based on the electric signal converted by the image pickup unit, dispatches an image pickup instruction again to the image pickup unit, and at the same time, controls the light emitter to emit light in timing with the image pickup timing.

3. An image pickup device according to claim 1, wherein

the controller prohibits a storing of the electric signal converted by the image pickup unit which has been determined as "not proper", in the memory.

4. An image pickup device according to claim 3, wherein

when an electric signal converted by the image pickup unit in timing with a first light emission of the light emitter is "not proper", the controller makes the memory to store electric signals converted by the image pickup unit in timing with second and subsequent light emissions of the light emitter.

5. An image pickup device equipped with a strobe, comprising:

an image pickup unit which is a so-called charge coupled device (CCD), for picking an image of an object and converting this image into an electric signal;

a memory for storing data electrically converted by the image pickup unit;

a determining section in a CPU for making a determination of whether the electric signal converted by the image pickup unit is a proper image or not;

a controller in the CPU for making the electric signal converted by the image pickup unit to be stored in the memory if a result of the determination of the determining section is "proper", and, if a result of

the determination of the determining section is "not proper", for obtaining a light quantity of a light emitter which is assumed to be "proper" based on the electric signal converted by the image pickup unit and for dispatching an image pickup instruction again to the image pickup unit, and at the same time, for controlling the light emitter to emit light in timing with the image pickup timing; and

a stroboscopic light emitter for being controlled by the controller to emit light of a desired light-emission quantity in timing with an image pickup timing of the image pickup device.

6. An image pickup device equipped with a light emitter, comprising:

an image pickup unit for picking up an image and converting the picked-up image into an electric signal;

a memory for storing data electrically converted by the image pickup unit;

a determining section for making a determination of whether the electric signal converted by the image pickup unit has a proper brightness or not;

a controller for making the electric signal converted by the image pickup unit to be stored in the memory if a result of the determination of the determining section is "proper";

a light emitter for being controlled by the controller to emit light in timing with an image pickup

timing of the image pickup device; and

an auto-focussing unit for driving an optical system to focus on an object.

7. An image pickup device according to claim 6, wherein

when a result of the determination of the determining section is "not proper", the controller obtains a light quantity of the light emitter which is assumed to be "proper" based on the electric signal converted by the image pickup unit, dispatches an image pickup instruction again to the image pickup unit, and at the same time, controls the light emitter to emit light in timing with the image pickup timing.

8. An image pickup device according to claim 7, wherein

the controller obtains a light emission quantity of the light emitter by referring to information of a distance to an image pickup object obtained by an auto-focussing operation.

9. An image pickup device according to claim 7, wherein

the controller makes the light emitter carry out a first light emission in a light emission quantity of the light emitter set by a user manual operation.

10. An image pickup method using a light emitter, comprising the steps of:

carrying out a first light emission of a light

emitter, and carrying out a first image pickup in timing with this light emission;

determining a brightness of a state of a picked-up image obtained by the image pickup operation;

storing the content of the first picked-up image if a result of the decision is "at or above a predetermined value";

determining a second light emission value of the light emitter if a result of the determination is "less than a predetermined value";

carrying out a second light emission of the light emitter based on the second light emission value, and carrying out a second image pickup in timing with this light emission; and

storing the content of the second picked-up image.